

JUN 21 2004

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Shubhendu S. Mukherjee et al.	§	Confirmation No.:	2964
Serial No.:	09/652,322	§	Group Art Unit:	2141
Filed:	08/31/2000	§	Examiner:	Q. N. Nguyen
For:	Priority Rules For Reducing Network Message Routing Latency	§	Docket No.:	200301777-1

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 PO Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: June 21, 2004

Sir:

In response to the final Office action of April 7, 2004, please enter this Preliminary Amendment and corresponding Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 13 of this paper.

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REMARKS: Serial No. 09/652,322, filed 08/31/2000  
Attached hereto is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) including a Preliminary Amendment, for filing with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Please acknowledge receipt of this facsimile.

Total Number of Pages (Including This One): TWENTY-ONE (21)

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